(e) the reaction of Government of India thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Among the nuclear reactors in operation presently only Tarapur Atomic Power Station Units 1 and 2 use uranium from abroad for which fuel is available.

(b) to (e) While policies of individual countries may vary, actual availability of uranium from abroad is dependent on opening up of civil nuclear trade. This requires exemption for India from the guidelines of Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG).

Production in atomic power stations

†3238. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that production in atomic power stations of the country has come down to 30 per cent;

(b) whether it is also a fact that some atomic power stations are on the verge of closure due to the shortage of fuel;

(c) if so, the details of such atomic power stations, State wise; and

(d) the details of the efforts being made by Government to increase the production capacity of atomic power stations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Presently nuclear power stations are operating at around 50% capacity.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Not applicable.

(d) Efforts have been made by the Government to augment fuel supply by opening of new mines and augmenting processing capacity. The work on setting up a new ore-processing mill at Turamdih in Jharkhand has been completed ar ' the production is expected to commence shortly. Work has also started on a new uranium mine and mill at Tummalapalle in Andhra Pradesh. Work is in progress to establish more uranium mining and processing projects.

New coal company in Orissa

3239. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA; Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal pending in coal to create new coal company in Orissa by dividing the Mahanadi Coalfield;

(b) the number of cases of land looser that are still pending in Mahanadi Coalfield; and

(c) if so, whether Government has any time-frame to settle these cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA): (a) No, Sir.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) As reported by Coal India Limited (CIL), there is no pending case of land loosers in Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL). Acquisitions of land and deciding cases of land loosers in MCL is a continuous process, which passes through various stages, namely, payment of compensation, employment to eligible land loosers, resettlement of land loosers, physical possession of land and structures etc.

(c) Does not arise in view of the reply to part (b) above.

Conversion of old and loss making coal mines

†3240. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Coal India Ltd. and Government has received certain proposals in which conversion of old and loss-making coal mines into profit-making mines by using modern techniques have been offered;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard and the number of proposals received by Government so far;

(c) whether Government has taken any decision to implement these suggestions; and

(d) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SANTOSH BAGROLIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Two proposals have been received to develop coking coal resources/mines which are either unexploited or abandoned. One proposal is from M/s. Arcelor Mittal to develop such coking coal mines in joint venture with Coal India Limited and the other from M/s. Essar for leasing out such mines to the private sector. Central Mine Planning & Design Institute Limited (CMPDIL) has been asked to assess resource position in such mines.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise in view of part (c) above.

Allocation of coal on "Tapering Basis"

3241. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has approved the allocation of coal on "Tapering Basis" to the power companies and have allocated coal blocks for their power plants in the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government has formulated many new policies in this respect;

(c if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken to ensure that year-wise allocation of coal on tapering linkage would be based on the difference between year-wise requirement and year-wise production of coal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA): (a) Yes Sir. Based on the recommendations of the Standing Linkage Committee

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi